

the Public Debt, Parkersburg, WV 26101.

(b) If the bond serial number is not known, the claimant must provide sufficient information to enable the Bureau of the Public Debt to identify the bond by serial number. See § 353.29(c). The Bureau will furnish the proper application form and instructions.

(c) If applicable, a defaced bond and all available fragments of a mutilated bond should be submitted to the Bureau.

(d) The application must be made by the person or persons (including both coowners, if living) authorized under these regulations to request payment of the bond. In addition:

(1) If the bond is in beneficiary form and the owner and beneficiary are both living, both will ordinarily be required to join in the application.

(2) If a minor named on a bond as owner, coowner, or beneficiary is not of sufficient competency and understanding to request payment, both parents will ordinarily be required to join in the application.

(e) If the application is approved, relief will be granted either by the issuance of a bond bearing the same issue date as the bond for which the claim was filed or by the issuance of a check in payment.

§ 353.27 Application for relief—Non-receipt of bond.

If a bond issued on any transaction is not received, the issuing agent must be notified as promptly as possible and given all information available about the nonreceipt. An appropriate form and instructions will be provided. If the application is approved, relief will be granted by the issuance of a bond bearing the same issue date as the bond that was not received.

§ 353.28 Recovery or receipt of bond before or after relief is granted.

(a) If a bond reported lost, stolen, destroyed, or not received, is recovered or received before relief is granted, the Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, WV 26101, must be notified promptly.

(b) A bond for which relief has been granted is the property of the United States and, if recovered, must be

promptly submitted to the Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, WV 26101, for cancellation.

§ 353.29 Adjudication of claims.

(a) *General.* The Bureau of the Public Debt will adjudicate claims for lost, stolen or destroyed bonds on the basis of records created and regularly maintained in the ordinary course of business.

(b) *Claims filed 10 years after payment.* A bond for which no claim has been filed within 10 years of the recorded date of redemption will be presumed to have been properly paid. If a claim is subsequently filed, a photographic copy of the bond will not be available to support the disallowance.

(c) *Claims filed six years after final maturity.* No claim filed six years or more after the final maturity of a savings bond will be entertained unless the claimant supplies the serial number of the bond.

Subpart G—Interest

§ 353.30 Series EE bonds.

Series EE bonds are issued at a discount. The accrued interest is added to the issue price at stated intervals and is payable only at redemption as part of the redemption value. Information regarding interest rates and redemption values is found in Department of the Treasury Circular, Public Debt Series No. 1-80 (31 CFR part 351).

§ 353.31 Series HH bonds.

(a) *General.* Series HH bonds are current income bonds issued at par (face amount). Interest on a Series HH bond is paid semiannually beginning six months from the issue date. Interest ceases at final maturity, or, if the bond is redeemed prior to final maturity, as of the end of the interest period last preceding the date of redemption. For example, if a bond on which interest is payable on January 1 and July 1 is redeemed on September 1, interest ceases as of the preceding July 1, and no interest will be paid for the period from July 1 to September 1. However, if the redemption date falls on an interest payment date, interest ceases on that date. Information regarding interest rates is found in Department of the

Treasury Circular, Public Debt Series No. 2-80, current revision (31 CFR part 352).

(b) *Payment of interest.* Series HH bond interest accounts are maintained by the Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, WV. Interest on bonds issued on or after October 1, 1989 will be paid on each interest due date by the Automated Clearing House (ACH) method to the owner or coowner's account at a financial institution, unless the Bureau determines that extraordinary circumstances warrant payment by check or other means. See 31 CFR part 370. Interest on bonds issued prior to October 1, 1989, is payable by check drawn to the order of the owner or both coowners or, upon request, by the ACH method to the owner or coowner's account at a financial institution. Checks will be mailed to the delivery address provided to the Bureau. Deposit account information for ACH payments shall be provided on the form designated by the Bureau. Rules governing payment of interest by the ACH method are contained in paragraph (h) of this section.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1535-0094)

(c) *Delivery of interest.* (1) Notices affecting the delivery of interest payments. To ensure appropriate action, notices affecting the delivery of interest payments on Series HH bonds must be received by the Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1328, at least one month prior to the interest payment date. Each notice must include the owner or coowner's name and the taxpayer identifying number appearing on the account under which records of the bonds are maintained. The notice must be signed by the owner or coowner or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, as provided in paragraph (d) or (e) of this section.

(2) *Owner or coowner deceased.* (i) Sole owner. Upon receipt of notice of the death of the owner of a bond, payment of interest will be suspended until satisfactory evidence is submitted as to who is authorized to receive and collect interest payments on behalf of the estate of the decedent, in accordance with the provisions of subpart L.

(ii) *Coowner.* Upon receipt of notice of the death of the coowner to whom interest payments have been directed, payment of interest will be suspended until delivery instructions are received from the other coowner, if living. If both coowners are deceased, payment of interest will be suspended until satisfactory evidence is submitted as to who is authorized to receive and collect interest payments on behalf of the estate of the last deceased coowner, in accordance with the provisions of subpart L.

(iii) *Owner with beneficiary.* Interest on a bond registered in beneficiary form is paid to the owner during his or her lifetime. Upon receiving notice of the owner's death, the Bureau will suspend payment of interest until the bond is presented for payment or reissue by the beneficiary, if surviving, or by some other proper person. Interest so withheld will be paid to the person entitled to the bond.

(d) *Representative appointed for the estate of a minor, incompetent, absentee, et al.* Interest on Series HH bonds is paid in accordance with the provisions of § 353.60 to the representative appointed for the estate of an owner who is a minor, incompetent, absentee, *et al.* If the registration of the bonds does not include reference to the owner's status, the bonds should be submitted for reissue to a designated Federal Reserve Bank so that interest payments may be properly directed. They must be accompanied by proof of appointment, as required by § 353.60.

(e) *Adult incapacitated owner having no representative.* If an adult owner of a Series HH bond is incapacitated and unable to receive and collect interest payments, and no legal guardian or similar representative has been appointed to act for the owner's relative, or other person, responsible for his or her care and support may apply to the Bureau of the Public Debt for recognition as voluntary guardian for the purpose of receiving and collecting the payments.

(f) *Reissue during interest period.* Physical reissue of a Series HH bond may be made without regard to interest payment dates. The Series HH interest accounts maintained by the Bureau of the Public Debt will be closed in the

first week of the month preceding each interest payment date, and payments will be made pursuant to the information contained in the accounts as of the date they are closed.

(g) *Endorsement of checks.* Interest checks must be endorsed in accordance with the regulations governing the payment of fiscal agency checks, as contained in 31 CFR part 355.

(h) *Payment of interest by the ACH method—(1) Submission of deposit account information.* To obtain payment of interest by the ACH method, the owner or coowner must furnish the name and ABA routing/transit number of the financial institution to which the payments are to be directed, as well as the deposit account title, number, and type or classification of the account. Such information shall be provided on the form(s) prescribed by the Bureau of the Public Debt. Payments on all Series HH bonds assigned to the same account maintained by the Bureau must be made to the same deposit account at a financial institution. If the financial institution designated to receive the interest payments has not agreed to receive and deposit payments under 31 CFR part 210, but is willing to do so, it should be asked to contact a Federal Reserve Bank for enrollment advice.

(2) *Designation of financial institution as owner's agent.* The designation of a financial institution to receive Series HH interest payments by an owner or coowner constitutes the appointment of that institution as his or her agent for receipt of the payments.

(3) *Deposit account held by individuals in their own right.* Where the Series HH bonds are registered in the name of individual(s) as sole owner, or as owner and beneficiary, and the deposit account at the financial institution is held in the name of individual(s) in their own right, the owner's name must appear on the deposit account. Where the bonds are registered in the names of two individuals as coowners and the deposit account is held in the name of individual(s) in their own right, the registration of the bonds and the title of the account must contain at least one name that is common to both. The deposit account to which the interest payments are directed should preferably be established in a form iden-

tical to the registration of the bonds to ensure that rights of ownership and survivorship can be more easily identified and preserved. Neither the United States nor any Federal Reserve Bank shall be liable for any loss sustained because the interest of the holder(s) of a deposit account to which payments are made are not the same as the owner(s) of the bonds.

(4) *Deposit account held by organization.* Where the deposit account to which interest payments are to be directed is held in the name of the financial institution itself acting as sole trustee, or as co-trustee, or is the name of a commercially-managed investment fund, the owner or coowner should inquire whether the financial institution is able to receive ACH payments; if not, the owner or coowner should make alternative arrangements.

(5) *Financial institution cannot accept ACH payments.* If after submission of deposit account information, it is determined that ACH payments cannot be accepted by the designated financial institution, pending receipt of new deposit account information, payment will be made by check drawn to the registered owner or both coowners and mailed to the address of record.

(6) *Cancellation of ACH arrangement.* (i) Bonds issued on or after October 1, 1989. As set forth in paragraph (b) of this section and in the Series HH offering contained in Circular No. 2-80, interest on Series HH bonds issued on or after October 1, 1989, will be paid by the ACH method. In the absence of extraordinary circumstances, a request to discontinue payment by the ACH method in favor of payment by check will not be accepted.

(ii) Bonds issued prior to October 1, 1989. An ACH arrangement established in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section for Series HH bonds issued prior to October 1, 1989, shall remain in effect until it is terminated by one of the following events:

(A) Either coowner submits a request to the Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, WV, 26102-1328 to terminate the ACH arrangement;

(B) A change in the title of the deposit account to which payments are being directed alters the interest of the person(s) entitled to the payments;

(C) An individual named on the deposit account dies or is adjudicated legally incompetent;

(D) The account is closed; or

(E) The ACH arrangement is terminated unilaterally by the financial institution after having given written notice to the account holder 30 days in advance of the termination, except in cases of fraud, where termination shall be effective immediately.

(7) *Suspension of ACH payments.* Upon receipt of notice that a designated deposit account has been closed, that an individual named on such account is dead or has been declared legally incompetent, or where the corporation is the owner and it has been dissolved, the Bureau reserves the right to suspend ACH payments, pending satisfactory evidence of entitlement. See paragraph (c) of this section regarding suspension of payments in the case of deceased individuals.

(8) *Processing of ACH payments.* Series HH interest payments made by the ACH method will be processed in accordance with 31 CFR part 370.

(i) *Nonreceipt or loss of interest payment.* The Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328 should be notified if:

(1) An interest check is not received or is lost after receipt or

(2) An ACH payment is not credited to the designated account and the financial institution has no record of receiving it. The notice should include the owner or coowner's name and taxpayer identifying number and the interest payment date.

(ii) [Reserved]

[54 FR 40254, Sept. 29, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 10541, Mar. 4, 1994]

Subpart H—General Provisions for Payment

§ 353.35 Payment (redemption).

(a) *General.* Payment of a savings bond will be made to the person or persons entitled under the provisions of these regulations, except that checks in payment will not be delivered to addresses in areas with respect to which the Department of the Treasury restricts or regulates the delivery of checks drawn against funds of the

United States. See Department of the Treasury Circular No. 655, current revision (31 CFR part 211). Payment will be made without regard to any notice of adverse claims to a bond and no stoppage or caveat against payment of a bond will be entered.

(b) *Series EE.* A Series EE bond will be paid at any time after six months from issue date at the current redemption value shown in Department of the Treasury Circular, Public Debt Series No. 1-80 (31 CFR part 351).

(c) *Series HH.* A Series HH bond will be paid at any time after six months from issue date. A Series HH bond issued in an authorized exchange or reinvestment transaction will be paid at face value. A Series HH bond issued for cash will be paid at the current redemption value shown in Department of the Treasury Circular, Public Debt Series No. 2-80, Second Revision (31 CFR part 352). If the bond is redeemed at less than face value, the difference represents an adjustment of interest. In any case where Series HH bonds are surrendered to a designated Federal Reserve Bank or Branch or the Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, for redemption in the month prior to an interest payment date, redemption will not be deferred but will be made in regular course, unless the presenter specifically requests that the transaction be delayed until that date. A request to defer redemption made more than one month preceding the interest payment date will not be accepted.

[44 FR 76441, Dec. 26, 1979, as amended at 51 FR 23754, July 1, 1986; 59 FR 10541, Mar. 4, 1994]

§ 353.36 Payment during life of sole owner.

A savings bond registered in single ownership form (i.e., without a co-owner or beneficiary) will be paid to the owner during his or her lifetime upon surrender with an appropriate request.

§ 353.37 Payment during lives of both coowners.

A savings bond registered in co-ownership form will be paid to either coowner upon surrender with an appropriate request, and upon payment (as